

WI-229

1881

Benjamin F. Messick House
Allen
Private

Built in 1881 by Benjamin F. Messick, this two-and-a-half story, tee-shaped, Victorian house stands prominently on the west side of Allen Road in the center of the village. Identified as a farmer as well as a carpenter in the nineteenth century censuses and Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, Benjamin F. Messick owned several properties in the village around 1870-1880. He relocated an older house (WI-228) across the road in a plan to erect his new Victorian dwelling. In an apparent plan to diverge from period building traditions, he financed construction of a stylish tee-shaped main block with the leg of the tee facing the street. A single-story porch, now enclosed, wraps around the first story. Lighted by two-over-two sash windows, the house is distinguished by a bay window on the south side. Standing in the backyard is a two-story board-and-batten frame barn.

Benjamin F. Messick, son of Phillip Messick, resided on this property during the second half of the nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century. He is listed with his family in the various federal censuses. In 1880, at 40 years old, he is grouped with his wife, Mary, three children, Harry F., William F., and Frederick along with 71-year old Eleanor M. Daisy. The property passed from Benjamin's hands to son Frederick's, and then to William F. Messick, owner of the Messick Ice Company. The property was eventually inherited by William F. Messick's daughter, Anne Messick Desmond, and the property remains in family hands.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Benjamin F. Messick House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-229

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling
Barn

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-229

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic BENJAMIN F. MESSICK HOUSE

and/or common Desmond House

2. Location

street & number West side of Allen Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Allen ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name M. Wilson Snow et al.

street & number Frick-Meade Accountancy Corp. telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 66, P. 34
liber 997

street & number Wicomico Count Courthouse folio 576

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-229

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Benjamin F. Messick house, also known as the Desmond house, stands on the west side of Allen Road in the of Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story tee-shaped frame house faces east with principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1881, this two-and-a-half story, tee-shaped frame dwelling is supported on a continuous brick foundation and the exterior is clad with aluminum siding. The steeply pitched gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The tee-shaped main block is extended to the rear by a single-story kitchen wing. Standing in the backyard is a two-story board-and-batten frame barn.

The two-and-a-half story, tee-shaped house has an asymmetrical front elevation with the leg of the tee facing the street providing a gable-front orientation. An enclosed porch encircles and shelters the entire first floor, wrapping around the leg on three sides. The porch has been infilled with a series of modern windows. Rising atop the porch in the southeast corner is second story infill covered by a low pitched shed roof. A similar second story enclosure is found on the north side as well. The second floor of the gable-front leg is marked by a pair of two-over-two sash windows, and the attic is lighted by a pointed arch two-over-two sash. The window lintels on each opening have a small crown molding. The edge to the roof is finished with an extended eave with the soffits enclosed. Piercing the south leg is an interior brick chimney finished with a corbelled cap. The south roof slope features a gable roofed dormer.

The south gable end elevation of the south arm of the main block features a single-story bay window filled with two-over-two sash windows. The second floor is marked by a single two-over-two sash window and the attic is lighted by a pointed arch window. Rising through the south arm is an interior brick chimney.

The north gable end of the main block is defined by a single two-over-two sash window on each floor, and a pointed arch attic window lights the attic. The eaves are extended like the rest of the house with the soffits sloped.

Attached to the back of the tee-shaped main house is a single story kitchen wing.

The interior was not seen.

Standing behind the house is a two-story, gable-front, board-and-batten frame barn dating from the late nineteenth century as well.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-229

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1881

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

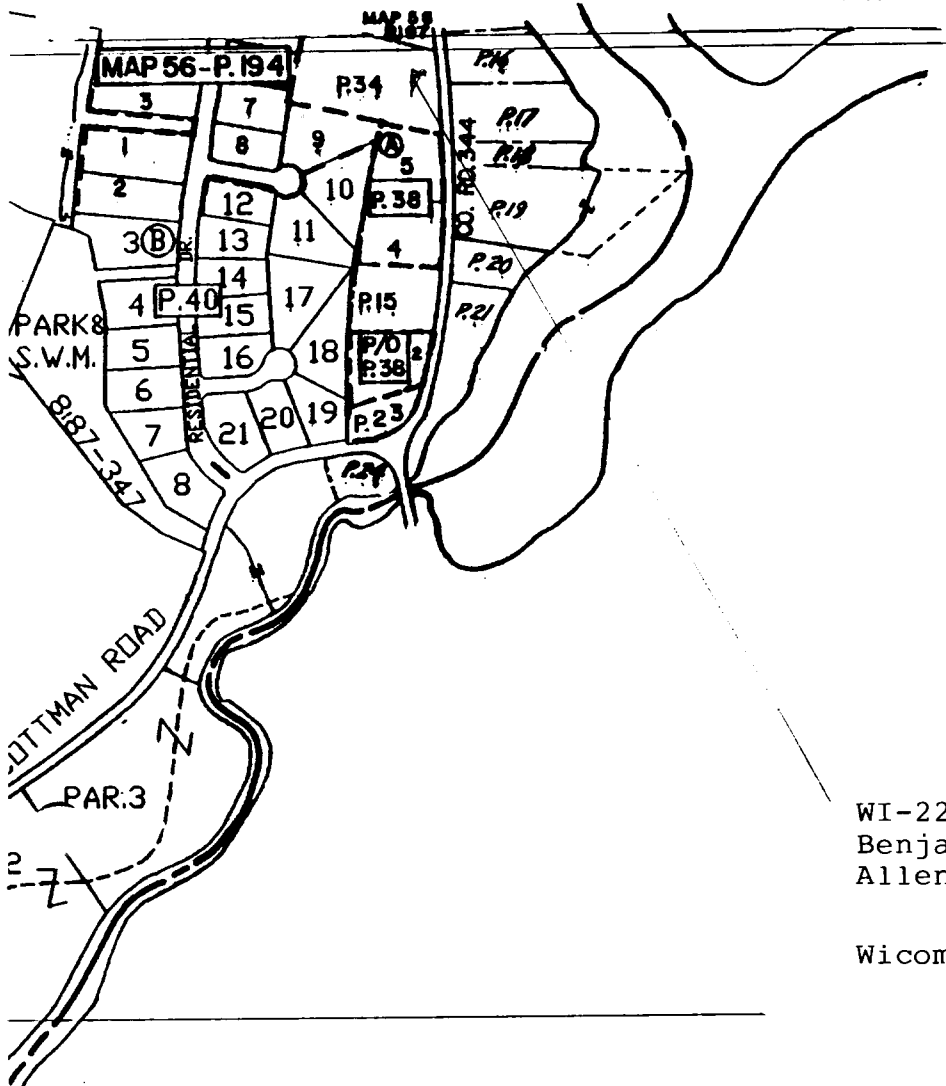
Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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The house and barn are eligible for listing in *Category B*, which identifies properties that should be preserved due to their architectural and/or historical significance. The house contributes to the historic nature of the village.

168



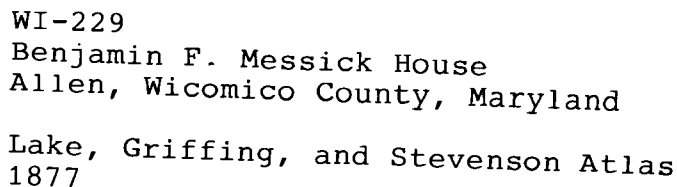
TUFEBB, Dealer in Dry Goods, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Ware, Sawware, Ready-made Clothing, and Berry Baskets in season, Notions, &c. Is of Merchandise usually kept in a country Fruitland, Md.

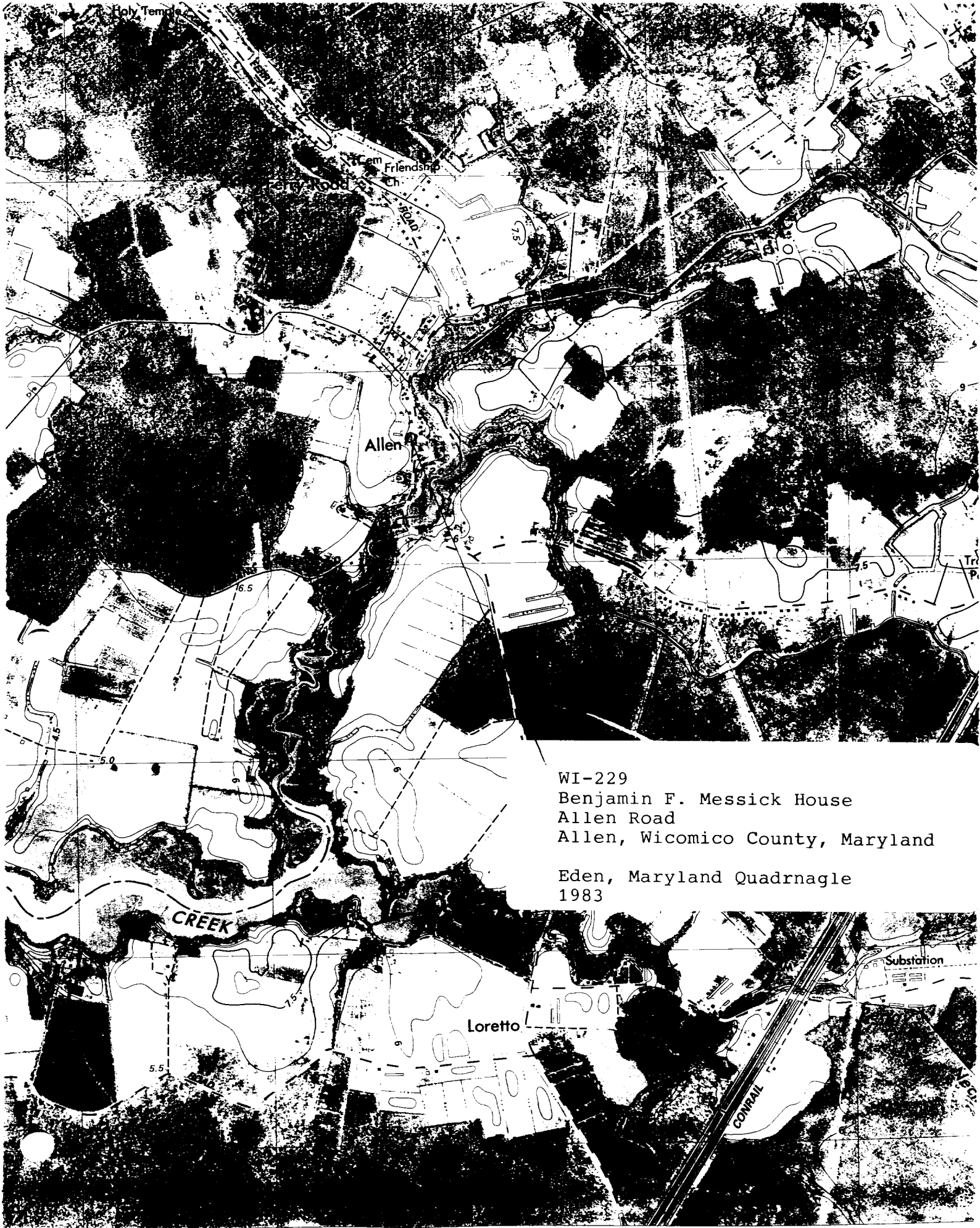
NEY, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, re. Notions, &c. Eden, Md.

ILANY AND SONS, General Dealers Shippers of all kinds of Domestic Fruits etables. Also dealers in all kinds of Merchandise adapted to a village store. Fruitland, Md.

LLEN, Dealers in Dry Goods and Groceries Medicines, Boots, Shoes, Hardware and Paints, Oils, Dye-stuffs, Glass, Drugs licines, Fancy Goods, Hats and Caps, and Goods usually kept in a country store.. Cash or Produce. Upper-Trappe, Md.

Dist.No.7
WICOMICO CO.





WI-229
Benjamin F. Messick House
Allen Road
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland

Eden, Maryland Quadrangle
1983

42'30"

39

(PRINCESS ANNE)

5860 II NW

SCALE 1:24 000

PRINCESS ANNE 64 AM

40'

42



W1-229

Planned F. Historic House

Allen, William Henry, d. 1920

Government 15/12/1920

1920, 1921, 1922 - P15+5000000

W1 / No Historical Trust

1/1